

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by de Fresart.

Claims 16 and 20 have been canceled.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of forming a field oxide layer with a first edge disposed outwardly from the drain region, and forming a floating ring structure with a second edge disposed inwardly from at least a portion of the field oxide layer wherein said first edge of said field oxide is aligned with said second edge of said floating ring structure. The de Fresart patent does not show a floating ring structure with an edge aligned to an edge of the field oxide structure. The examiner is referred to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. As clearly shown in the above referenced Figures, there is no edge of any floating region 150 (Figs. 1 and 2), 350 (Fig. 3), 450 (Fig. 4), 550 (Fig. 5), and 650 (Fig. 6) that is aligned to any edge of any field oxide region. Claim 13 is therefore allowable over the cited art. Similarly, claims 13-15 and 17-19 depend on claim 13 and therefore contain all the limitations of claim 13. Claims 13-15 and 17-19 are therefore also allowable over the cited art.

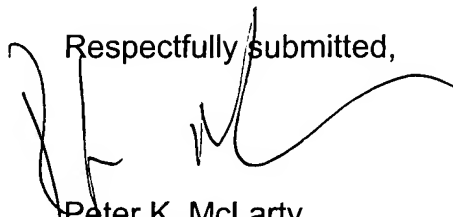
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated,
Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter K. McLarty', written over the closing text.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

None